

Memorandum



Date: May 13, 2013

To: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

Subject: South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center Status Report

CRC

Agenda Item No. 7(D)

The second season of the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC) commenced on October 1, 2012. For the sixth month period following the start of season two, SMDCAC held 109 events among the three performance venues (Mainstage, Black Box and Lab Theater) hosting over 32,346 patrons and guests. The Center continues to emphasize its goals of presenting artistically excellent work and developing strong community outreach components in everything that it does. A comparison of attendance at events from March 2012 and March 2013 shows a 200% increase.

The Center's volunteer program, which provides FREE staffing at performances, events and during office hours has almost tripled in the number of volunteers working at the Center from last season. In the month of February, the Center recruited 95 volunteers to assist at 16 performances for a cost savings of \$8,525 in staffing services. In the month of March, the Center recruited 100 volunteers for 16 performances for a cost savings of \$8,556 in staffing services.

On the Mainstage during the month of April was a nearly sold-out performance by world music star and tabla player Zakir Hussain performing with santoor master Shivkumar Sharma (April 4); two sold-out performances, (one school show and one public performance) by the high energy step dancers from the famed troupe Step Afrika!, a co presentation with Culture Shock Miami (April 5 and 6); aerial dance performers Alison Chase/Performance (April 13); and India Jazz Suites (April 20) featuring traditional Indian dance and American tap dancing, another co-presentation with Culture Shock Miami.

The Hot Club of San Francisco, a gypsy swing jazz band playing the music of Django Reinhardt, performed three shows as part of the Cabaret Series (April 26-27) as well as provided a special Friday morning performance where the musicians accompanied an original silent movie for over 900 public school students.

Outreach events in April included a women's self defense class, several FREE dance classes for the public with members of Step Afrika!, Alison Chase/Performance and with the artists from India Jazz Suites. In addition, SMDCAC collaborated with the Town of Cutler Bay on two intergenerational dance projects with students from Mays Conservatory and senior citizens residing in South Miami-Dade with choreographer Alison Chase from Alison Chase/Performance and also with dancers Chitresh Das and Jason Samuels Smith from India Jazz Suites. Additional outreach activities were offered at various elementary, middle and

high schools in the South Miami-Dade area, as well as a outreach collaboration with INKUB8 Studio in the Wynwood Arts District.

Rental clients in the month of April included: Calvary Chapel for three Easter Sunday services; Miami Sites for two photo shoots; Miami Symphony Orchestra Concert (MISO); and the Civic Chorale for a special concert for Veterans.

Local TV station NBC 6 featured two live interviews with C. Brian Williams, founder of Step Afrika! and also with Chitresh Das and Jason Samuels Smith promoting the shows at the Center. *The Miami Herald* printed a feature article on Maestros in Concert with Shivkumar Sharma and Zakir Hussain promoting the show.

The Center and the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs will co-present an accessible children's festival on May 4 called the All Kids Included Family Festival. The festival is an all day, action packed day of arts activities for children with and without disabilities and includes two days of advance field trips for school children. The Children's Trust is a major sponsor of the event.

In May, the Center will also present acclaimed singer Connie James, May 24-26 as part of the Cabaret Series.

For a complete listing of upcoming events, please visit the Center's website, www.smdcac.org.

BACKGROUND

The South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center is located on S.W. 211 Street in Cutler Bay and is a multidisciplinary arts center designed to showcase the performing arts. The design team was led by architectural and engineering firm Arquitectonica International, Inc, and also included: theater consultant Fisher Dachs Associates, Inc.; acoustical and sound and communications consultant Artec Consultants, Inc.; and arts management consultant AMS Planning & Research Corp.

The Center's 966-seat state-of-the-art Theater Building includes a fly tower, orchestra pit, front of house spaces (box office, lobby, restrooms, concessions, etc.), back of house support spaces (dressing rooms, storage and work areas, administrative offices, etc.) and a multi-purpose rehearsal space. The separate Activities Building of the Center houses an informal performance space, and smaller multi-purpose spaces for lectures, classes, or community gatherings. The Center's two buildings are joined by an outdoor promenade leading to a gently-sloping lawn for outdoor concerts and festivals along the Black Creek Canal.

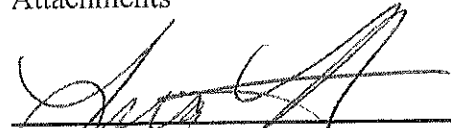
Through Miami-Dade County's Art in Public Places Program, the Center has major public art works created by Miami artist Robert Chambers. An innovative light piece illuminates the translucent inner lobby wall with changing light designs created by computer-programmed

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LED fixtures. In addition, the lobby features two marble sculptures also created by Robert Chambers.

This season Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay has generously sponsored the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center's Cabaret Series.

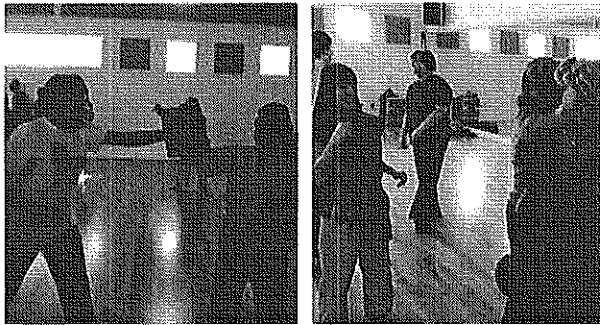
Attachments



Lisa M. Martinez, Senior Advisor
Office of the Mayor

South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

Outreach Activities



SMDCAC's Women's Self Defense Class



Sold-Out School Performance With Step Afrika!

Sample Billboards

